

Atty. Docket No. JP9-1999-0804US1
(590.017)

REMARKS

Applicants and the undersigned are most grateful for the time and effort accorded the instant application by the Examiner. In the Office Action dated December 13, 2004, pending Claims 1-16 were rejected. The Office is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the following remarks.

On April 20, 2005, Applicants' counsel conducted a telephone interview with the Primary Examiner during which the present invention and the Williamowski et al. reference was discussed. No agreement was reached at that time with respect to the claims. However, another interview was scheduled to further discuss the reference and the claims. On April 26, 2005, a second telephone interview was conducted with the Primary Examiner during which the present invention and the Williamowski et al. reference was discussed again. During the interview the Primary Examiner indicated he had a concern regarding the claims in light of 35 USC 101. More importantly, however, it was agreed that the Williamowski et al. reference did not teach search engines having a dedicated language. It was further agreed that a simple amendment to the independent claims would address the Primary Examiner's 101 concern and, thus, place the claims in a position of allowance, since they are patentably distinguishable from the Williamowski et al. prior art reference.

As noted above, Claims 1-16 were pending in the instant application at the time of the outstanding Office Action. All claims have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claims 1-11, 14 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Williamowski et al. in

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view of Ciccareli. Claims 12-13 and 15 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Williamowski et al. in view of Lakritz. Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Williamowski et al. in view of Ciccarelli and further in view of Lakritz. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the present rejections are hereby respectfully requested.

Independent Claims 1, 7, 12, 14, and 16 were previously rewritten in the Applicants' Amendment After Final dated August 9, 2004, to incorporate language from the preamble of each respective claim regarding a "dedicated language" into the body of the claim. For example, element (b) of Claim 1 now recites "selecting a suitable search engine from a plurality of search engines, each of said search engines having a respective dedicated language". Similar language appears in the body of Claims 7, 12, 14, and 16. This language has been retained in the current amendment. In addition, the independent claims have been currently amended to recite "A computer implemented method...". Applicants intend no change in the scope of the claims by the changes made by these amendments; these amendments are not in acquiescence of the Office's position on allowability of the claims, but merely to expedite prosecution.

The comments, remarks, and arguments previously presented with respect to Williamowski et al., in the Applicants' Amendment dated March 1, 2004, as well as in the Applicants' Amendment After Final dated August 9, 2004, are equally applicable to the present Amendment and are hereby incorporated by reference. As has been indicated before, Williamowski et al. appears to be directed to cross-lingual information retrieval wherein a search query is translated into various languages and then the original query

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and its translations are presented to a search engine to increase the likelihood of relevant documents being returned by the search. While a user may specify a number of items, including the language of the query and the language into which a query is translated (Col. 5, lines 37-40; Fig. 6, Reference Nos. 604, 608), there is no teaching or suggestion in Williamowski et al. of selecting a search engine based upon the dedicated language of the search engine and then translating the query from the native language of the user into the dedicated language of the search engine.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1, 7, 12, 14, and 16 fully distinguish over the applied art and are thus in condition for allowance. By virtue of dependence from what are believed to be allowable independent Claims 1, 7, 12, 14, and 16, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 2-6, 8-11, 13, and 15 are also presently allowable.

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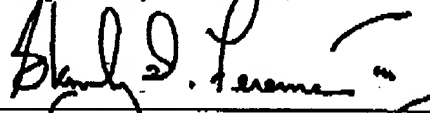
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In summary, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application, including Claims 1-16, is presently in condition for allowance. Notice to the effect is hereby earnestly solicited. If there are any further issues in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Stanley D. Ference III
Registration No. 33,879

Customer No. 35195
FERENCE & ASSOCIATES
409 Broad Street
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15143
(412) 741-8400 - Telephone
(412) 741-9292 - Facsimile

Attorneys for Applicants